

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 04968 251235Z

50

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /077 W

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P R 251120Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1967

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4968

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SETO, TH

SUBJECT: EXTENDING SEATO SECGEN APPOINTMENT

1. THERE IS A GROWING CONSENSUS AMONG THE SEATO COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO EXTEND THE SEATO SECGEN, SUNTHORN HONGLADAROM, IN HIS PRESENT POSITION FOR TWO YEARS. THE BRITISH COUNCIL REP IS IN THE CHAIR THIS MONTH AND HAS BEEN SOUNDING OUT THE OTHER REPS WITH A VIEW TO CONVEYING OUR JOINT RECOMMENDATION TO THE RTG.

2. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WISE TO INJECT A NEW MAN IN THE SECGEN POSITION AT THIS JUNCTURE. THE NEW DEP. SECGEN HAS NOT YET BEEN DESIGNATED BUT WILL BE A FILIPINO AND TWO OTHER TOP INTERNATIONAL STAFF POSITIONS WILL BE NEW PEOPLE. SUNTHORN HAS DONE AN ABLE JOB AND FROM THE STANDPOINT OF CONTINUITY IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KEEP HIM IN THE POSITION.

3. I PLAN TO AGREE THAT SUNTHORN IS A GOOD CHOICE TO CONTINUE AS SECGEN WHEN THE SUBJECT COMES UP, AS IT IS LIKELY TO DO AT AN EARLY DATE. THE COUNCIL REPS' VIEWS
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MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE RTG AND THEY ARE, OF COURSE,

FREE TO NOMINATE ANOTHER THAI CANDIDATE IF THEY CHOOSE.
MASTERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO04968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750103-0984
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750320/aaaaarfi.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXTENDING SEATO SECGEN APPOINTMENT
TAGS: PFOR, TH, SEATO, (SUNTHORN HONGLADAROM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006